



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

## Family Investment Administration Information Memo

Control Number: 16-21

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: June 30, 2016

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS**

**FROM: ROSEMARY MALONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**RE: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS) TIME  
LIMIT EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS**

### **SUMMARY:**

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently issued an administrative notice regarding the able-bodied adults without dependents' (ABAWD) time limit applied to customers receiving disability benefits issued by governmental or private sources.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(c)(2)(i), the ABAWD time limit does **not** apply to a customer receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits from governmental or private sources. These customers are considered certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment for ABAWD purposes. This exception to the time limit also includes customers that receive U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, **regardless** of disability rating. Therefore, local departments must accept the receipt of VA disability compensation for the purpose of determining and verifying exemption from the ABAWD time limit.

### **REMINDERS**

- Case managers must remember that an obvious or an otherwise known disability does not require verification; case managers have discretion when applying an

ABAWD exemption due to a disability.

- Case managers are required to narrate all actions and include the type of disability exemption in CARES.
- Refer veterans to available work program if they **voluntarily** want to work.
- Customers must report if their participation hours drop below an average of 20 hours per week in addition to their simplified reporting requirements.

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct all FSP inquiries to Vera Lynch at 410-767-7953 or [vera.lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:vera.lynch@maryland.gov). Please direct ABAWD questions Taneicsha (Dani) Whittaker at 410-767-5510 or [taneicsha.whittaker@maryland.gov](mailto:taneicsha.whittaker@maryland.gov).

cc: DHR Executive Staff  
FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHR Help Desk